

The BYE-POST

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Ed. Colin Stuart

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Well here we are, already half-way through our philatelic year. It's perhaps a bit late to be wishing you a happy and healthy New Year, but not too late to hope that so far it's been going well for you. Our part of stamp world seems to go on shrinking, so that even the mighty Stanley Gibbons, incomplete and at times questionable arbiter of stamp values in Britain, is failing to adjust to market changes and falling on harder times. But despite this, we and most other Essex clubs continue to offer our hobby a vital social and practical outlet. We ourselves at LWD have been able, thanks especially to Rod Crump*, to provide an interesting programme, before our long winter break, even if attendance at meetings has been smaller than we had hoped.

**Rod is poorly at the moment and may be hard put to see to our next programme.
We all wish him the very, very best and look forward to seeing him back soon.*

Our 2017-18 season kicked off on September 9th with our usual members' evening, this year centring on the letter 'D', a difficult letter yet one which produced a rather fine, varied crop of interesting items. (A wild guess: next year's letter may be 'E'. Prepare now!)

Richard Trottier produced from his Canada collection a choice of topics, covering Ducks, Dieppe (raid), D-Day, Dance, Dinosaurs, and various D places and people.

Rod Crump showed us a mass of material from inter-war Danzig

Richard Wood gave us stamps and cards from Dominica and Deutschland, which they tell me means 'Germany' in German and begins with D only for them !

Gordon George showed lots of British and Rhodesian stamps and covers falling under the heading of Dete, Dues, Double Heads and Discounts (Underprints).

Colin Stuart showed bits of his Denmark collection (Dues and advert labels), plus odd items from Djibouti, Dakar (ppc's), Danish West Indies, and Dragons from China

Best of all, perhaps, Stuart Henderson gave us another selection from his amazing assembly of Cinderellas, not all of them philatelic nor even beginning with D, but every bit as entertaining as always.

On September 25th our first invited speakers came all the way from Frinton, and showed us a) stamps and covers from Guernsey and Jersey (Mick Carter), b) (Bob Peters) material from the British forces in Egypt and the Middle East. We were particularly grateful to these collectors from deepest Essex, and for their enthusiasm. They have promised us another visit during in the spring.

There followed our Autumn Stamp Fair on October 14th and on the 23rd a 'Bring and Buy' evening (Our smallness limits the amount of trading that takes place, but it was another opportunity for members to show a few of their own favourite items). November 11th was our Auction, which was its usual modest success. It has been argued

that the Auctions and the Stamp Fairs may not warrant the feats of energy and organisation needed to mount these four fixtures, but even if they produce small financial returns, these play a big part socially in the club's overall programme. We keep all these functions under review.

On November 27th we had a return visit from Tony Bosworth, who gave a very nice, extensive showing of the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. This was a topic up most people's street, we had guessed, but sadly, and not for the first time, we were obliged to apologise for a very low attendance.

Christmas came early to Wanstead and Leytonstone on December 9th with our customary, refined celebration. A very pleasant evening it was, with a bottle of Spain's very finest fortified wine and a bountiful supply of epicurean mince pies, all supplied as usual by Roy Bates, to whom our thanks go. Thereafter, we had a long break in the programme right through to mid-February. (This is intended to avoid the worst of the winter weather, though in practice those months were tolerably mild and the harshest weather arrived promptly in February.) *For those of you who were busy and unable to meet at Christmas, below is part of one of the quiz questions. Can you NAME THESE THREE LADIES ?*



(For the full Quiz [and Answers] see our website at www.lwdps.org and MISC button)

Our next meeting was on February 10th, an 'internal' one that featured Richard Wood, who entertained us with the stamps and remarkable history of Sarawak in British Borneo. The other half was scheduled to be by Tom White, who would have given us the French Colonies. Unfortunately for us (but not for him) he has now moved away to the Lancashire seaside. We thank him for past service on the Committee and wish him well. His place was filled by your Chairman, who temporised from his album of cards and covers to and from various un-usual parts of the world.

After that, on Monday 26th February you will hear a programme shared by Richard Trottier and your chairman (again!), whose combined topic will be 'Northern Philately, East and West'. On March 10th we look forward to a second visit from faraway Frinton, when Jeff Miller intends to show 'WW1 War Tax Overprints'. Then on March 26th, an old friend, Tony Hoad will entertain, on a subject as yet undisclosed.

Next, our SPRING FAIR was to have been on April 14th, but *please note* that owing to a clash of fixtures, THIS HAS BEEN RE-ARRANGED FOR SATURDAY JUNE 9th. Thereafter, your programme shows another outside visitor from Frinton on April 23rd, but he is unable to attend on that day, so that we shall be providing a substitute from our own resources - wait to be advised. Then on Saturday May 12th Dick Salmon will show 'Mauritius and the Seychelles', a really meaty topic.

This will be followed on May 26th by our normal Spring Auction. Our programme is scheduled to end on June 25th. Our plan now is to combine our AGM at Wanstead House with the 'Society Social Meal at the George', just round the corner in Wanstead. The exact arrangements for this are being planned now, but our promise to subsidise each member to the tune of £10 per head will be honoured. We'll let you all know in good time.



Above is a photograph taken during our well attended Stamp Fair on October 14th in the Church Hall of Our Lady of Lourdes in Cambridge Park Road. We hope all of you attended too and will be making sure you turn up in numbers at the next Fair on the 9th June!

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